CLAIMS

1. A mechanism for writing instruments including:

- a first element (7) comprising a guide (9) extending between substantially parallel first and second edges (11, 12);

- a second element (8) comprising a pin (13) extending into the guide and movable along said guide, said pin having a given width along the transverse direction of the guide; and

- at least one locking device (15, 16) for said pin;

characterized in that the locking device includes a recess (17) extending in the first edge (11) between a first and a second end (17a, 17b), and an elastic member (18) which extends opposite the recess from at least one first base (19) integral with the first end of the recess, to a summit (21) placed in the guide at a distance from the second edge which is less than the width of the pin, said elastic member being susceptible to be pushed back towards the recess during passage of the pin.

2. The mechanism according to claim 1, in which the base (19) of the elastic member extends into the extension of the first edge (11).

3. The mechanism according to claim 1 or 2, in which the elastic member (18) has a second base (20) integral with the second end (17) of the recess.

4. The mechanism according to claim 3, in which the elastic member (18) has an intermediate U-shaped portion (22), the ends of the U-shaped branches being respectively integral with the first and second bases (19, 20), and the summit (21) of the elastic member being formed by the base of the U.

5. The mechanism according to claim 3 or 4, in which the first base (19) has a length substantially greater than the length of the second base (20).

6. The mechanism according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in which the guide (9) has at least one end stop (25; 26) extending between the first and second edges (11, 12), the

locking device (15; 16) being arranged at a distance from the stop which is suitable for the elastic member (18) to be in contact with the pin (13) when it is pressed against said end stop.

7. The mechanism according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in which the first element (7) and the locking device (15; 16) are formed from a single plastic part obtained by molding.

8. A writing instrument including a tubular body (3, 4) having a front end provided with an opening, a writing point (6) that can move between a storage position in which the point is arranged inside the body and a writing position in which the point passes through the opening, and a mechanism as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which controls the passage from one position of the point to the other.

9. The writing instrument according to claim 8, in which the body includes a first tubular part (3) and a second tubular part (4) mounted pivotally relative to the first part, the first element (7) of the mechanism being driven in rotation by said first part (3), the second element (8) of the mechanism being movable in translation relative to said second part (4), and the mechanism's guide (9) being helical.

10. The writing instrument according to claim 9, in which the helical guide (9) has a proximal end stop (25) relative to the opening, a distal end stop (26), a first locking device (15) arranged proximal the near end, and a second locking device (16) arranged near the distal end.

11. The writing instrument according to claim 9 or 10, in which a mobile member (8) connected to the point forms the second element of the mechanism, the first part (3) of the body forming the first element (7) of the mechanism, and the second part (4) having a housing (31) cooperating with the mobile member (8) and suited for guiding it in translation.